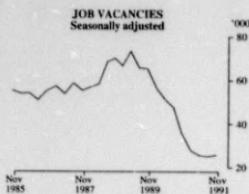


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 16 January 1992

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Job vacancies: long slide halted

Successive quarterly falls in the number of job vacancies (seasonally adjusted) since November 1989 were broken by the November 1991 estimate of 25,800, which was marginally higher than the August 1991 result. The three most recent quarterly estimates of job vacancies (seasonally adjusted) have been within the range 25,000 to 26,000. In the twelve months to November 1991, the number of job vacancies declined by 27 per cent (or 9,600 vacancies).

In original terms, public sector vacancies in November 1991 were 8,600 — a slight fall from the August 1991 estimate of 9,400. For the private sector the estimate was 16,300 — virtually the same as the August 1991 result.

Rises in the number of job vacancies (in original terms) were recorded in most States and Territories. New South Wales recorded the only fall, where vacancies fell by 3,500 to 7,800 in November 1991.

JOB VACANCIES

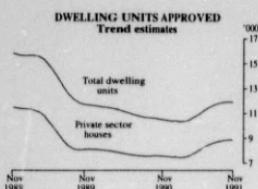
	At 16 August 1991		At 15 November 1991	Percentage change
	To nearest 100	To nearest 100	To nearest 100	
<i>Original —</i>				
Private sector	16,200		16,300	0.7
Public sector	9,400		8,600	-8.5
<i>All sectors</i>	25,600		24,900	2.8
New South Wales	10,900		7,800	-28.4
Victoria	4,100		5,200	27.2
Queensland	4,600		4,900	5.0
South Australia	2,000		2,100	6.0
Western Australia	1,500		2,300	47.3
Tasmania	600		600	9.5
Northern Territory	500		500	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,500		1,600	11.9
<i>Australia</i>	25,600		24,900	-2.6
<i>Seasonally adjusted —</i>				
<i>Australia</i>	25,100		25,800	2.8

The job vacancy rate (the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of the number of employees plus job vacancies) for Australia fell to 0.42 per cent in November 1991 from 0.44 per cent in August 1991.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the percentage of employees working overtime in November 1991 fell 1.5 per cent to 15.71 per cent and the estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime decreased by 3.6 per cent to 6.75 hours.

For further information, order the publication Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (6354.0), or contact Mick Atkinson (06) 252 6571.

Growth trend eases in housing approvals

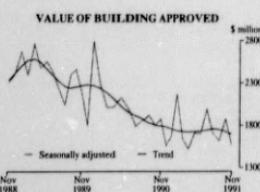


The total number of dwelling units approved in November 1991 fell by 4.5 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms following a 2.4 per cent fall in October. Approvals fell in all States. Private sector houses approved decreased by 3.8 per cent seasonally adjusted in November, after a slight rise in October.

These falls have meant that the trend series for both total number of dwelling units and private sector house approvals have flattened out following quite strong growth since February 1991.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, NOVEMBER 1991

	Number	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses —			
Original	8,791	-10.5	0.3
Seasonally adjusted	8,526	-3.8	5.4
Trend estimate	8,852	0.0	16.7
Total dwelling units —			
Original	11,961	-8.9	0.6
Seasonally adjusted	11,367	-4.5	4.2
Trend estimate	11,909	-0.2	13.4



The seasonally adjusted value of total building approved (residential and non-residential) decreased by 16.1 per cent to \$1,571.0 million from October to November 1991 and was also 16.1 per cent lower than the November 1990 estimate.

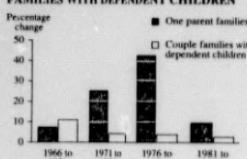
The trend estimates for the value of new residential building approved have flattened out. The trend for the value of total building approved is falling slightly. The separate trend series for non-residential building approved is only available to August 1991, and continued to decline to that point.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, NOVEMBER 1991

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building —			
Original	958.5	-10.0	1.3
Seasonally adjusted	929.2	-4.6	5.1
Trend estimate	971.3	0.0	12.3
Total building —			
Original	1,623.1	-20.7	-20.5
Seasonally adjusted	1,571.0	-16.1	-16.1
Trend estimate	1,689.6	-2.0	-5.5

Australia's one-parent families

FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN



What are thought to be the most extensive statistical findings on Australian one-parent family and household characteristics have emerged from a study of data from the 1986 Census of Population and Housing.

At the time of the 1986 Census (30 June 1986), 324,171 families, or 15 per cent of all families with dependent children, were classified as one-parent families — a 10 per cent increase between the 1981 and the 1986 Censuses.

About 86 per cent of one-parent families were single-mother families and 14 per cent were single-father families.

As a proportion of all families with dependent children in 1986, one-parent families were most prevalent in the Northern Territory (19%) and least prevalent in Victoria (13%).

ONE-PARENT FAMILIES, 30 JUNE 1986

State/Territory	Single-mother families	Single-father families	Total	As a proportion of all families with dependent children
	— per cent —		'000	per cent
Northern Territory	82.0	18.0	4.2	18.6
Western Australia	83.7	16.3	33.4	16.4
Tasmania	87.1	12.9	9.8	15.7
Queensland	85.5	14.5	55.7	15.5
South Australia	87.2	12.8	28.2	15.4
New South Wales	86.2	13.8	113.5	15.3
Australian Capital Territory	84.8	15.2	5.9	14.9
Victoria	85.5	14.5	73.5	13.0
Australia	85.7	14.3	324.2	14.9

In 1986, over 60 per cent of one-parent families were in the lowest income group for all families with dependent children. Only 12 per cent of two-parent families were in this category.

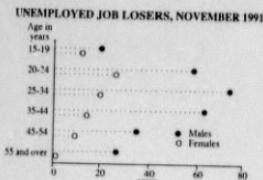
More than half (56%) of lone-mother families were renting the dwelling in which they spent census night. In comparison, 36 per cent of lone-father families and 20 per cent of couple families with dependent children were renting.

For further information, order the publication Australia's One Parent Families (2511.0), or contact Keith Mallett on (06)252 6228.

Population in brief ...

At 30 June 1991, 22.7 per cent (3.94 million) of the Australian population were estimated to be overseas-born, a slight increase from 22.5 per cent (3.85 million) at 30 June 1990. During the 1990-91 financial year the total population increased by 1.5 per cent to 17.34 million with the number of overseas-born increasing by 2.3 per cent. This growth rate is almost twice the rate of growth of the Australian-born population (1.2%).

Big rise in job losers



The number of unemployed persons who were job losers (i.e. persons who left their last full-time job involuntarily) increased significantly in the twelve months to November 1991.

Of those persons unemployed in November 1991, there were 363,100 job losers, an increase of 115,600 since November 1990. Job losers accounted for 61 per cent of the total increase in unemployment over the year (188,000). The number of male job losers rose by 92,000 to 278,200 and for females, job losers rose by 23,600 to 84,900. As a result, job losers made up 44 per cent of all unemployed persons in November 1991 compared with 39 per cent a year earlier.

Among the unemployed, some 66 per cent of male job losers had worked as tradespersons and labourers and related workers in their last full-time job while for females, 56 per cent had been employed as sales persons and personal service workers and clerks.

In addition to those job losers who join the ranks of the unemployed, a significant number of job losers withdrew from the labour force either temporarily or with no intention of looking for work again.

A survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in April 1991 showed that there were 131,900 job losers who had left the labour force in the previous twelve months. Of these persons, 56 per cent intended to return to the labour force. (At that time, there were 359,700 job losers who were defined as unemployed.)

These findings are among the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

	UNEMPLOYED JOB LOSERS '000		
	Males	Females	Persons
November —			
1989	93.4	39.9	133.3
1990	186.2	61.3	247.5
1991	278.2	84.9	363.1

The survey also shows that 73 per cent (264,800 persons) of unemployed job losers had been laid off or retrenched. Of these persons:

- 59 per cent were less than 35 years of age;
- 30 per cent were laid off or retrenched from the manufacturing industry and 22 per cent were laid off or retrenched from wholesale and retail trade; and
- 78 per cent were males.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order
(including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
16 January 1992

All the week's releases:

8 to 14 January

General

Publications Issued in December 1991 (1102.0; \$6.00)
Publications Advice, 10 January 1992 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 14 January 1992 (1105.0; free)
Statistics Weekly, 9 January 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Economic Indicators, NSW, December 1991 (1307.1; \$5.50)

Census of Population and Housing

Census 86 — Multicultural Aust., 30 June 1986 (2505.0; \$12.50) — new issue

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth, Age and Sex, Aust., June 1990 and Preliminary June 1991 (3221.0; \$15.00)
Deaths, WA, 1990 (3312.5; \$14.00) — new issue

Social statistics

Apparent Consumption of Foodstuffs and Nutrients, Aust., 1988-89 (4306.0; \$35.00)
Summary of Social Statistics, Qld, 1990 (4101.3; \$12.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Exports and Imports, Aust.: Trade with Selected Countries and Major Country Groups, September Qtr 1991 (5422.0; \$18.00)
Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, October 1991 (5432.0; \$9.00)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1992, September Qtr 1991 Survey (5626.0; \$10.50)
State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, June Qtr 1991 (5646.0; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

Trade Union Statistics, Aust., 30 June 1991 (6323.0; \$10.50)
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., November 1991 (6354.0; \$12.00)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., December 1991 (6410.0; \$5.50)
The Labour Force, Qld, November 1991 (6201.3; \$16.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., November 1991 (7215.0; \$7.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, October 1991 (8357.0; \$8.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, October 1991 (8358.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, October 1991 (8359.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, October 1991 (8360.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, October 1991 (8362.0; \$8.00)

Building Approvals, Aust., November 1991 (8731.0; \$13.00)

Building Activity, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (8752.0; \$14.00)

Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (8782.0; \$10.50)

Production Statistics, NSW, October 1991 (8304.1; \$7.50) — final issue

Building Approvals, NSW, November 1991 (8731.1; \$10.50)

Building Activity, NSW, September Qtr 1991 (8752.1; \$10.50)

Building Activity, Qld, September Qtr 1991 (8752.3; \$10.50)

Tourist Accommodation, WA, September Qtr 1991 (8635.5; \$10.00)

Building Approvals, WA, November 1991 (8731.5; \$10.00)

Building Activity, WA, September Qtr 1991 (8752.5; \$10.50)

Building Activity, SA, September Qtr 1991 (8752.4; \$10.50)

Building Approvals, Tas., November 1991 (8731.6; \$9.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., October 1991 (8741.6; \$3.50)

Building Activity, ACT, September Qtr 1991 (8752.8; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 January 1992

- [16] The Labour Force, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- [17] Retail Trade, Australia, November 1991 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- [22] Import Price Index, Australia, October 1991 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- [23] Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, November 1991 (5609.0; \$10.50)
- [28] Export Price Index, Australia, November 1991 (6405.0; \$8.00)
 Manufacturing Production, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 14 January 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 91)*	-11.2	-23.6	-5.8	20.1	0.1	-31.8	n.a.	n.a.	-9.5
Retail turnover (Oct. 91) (trend estimate)	4.9	3.4	3.9	5.7	7.0	3.4	n.a.	13.0	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Nov. 91)† (a)	-10.5	-13.2	-10.0	-12.8	9.9	-15.0	-9.9	-21.5	-9.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Nov. 91)	-10.3	-13.2	27.2	-19.5	8.5	-0.6	123.2	33.1	0.6
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Nov. 91)*	-2.0	-4.5	0.1	-3.1	0.0	-4.6	-3.4	1.0	-2.3
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91)	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.1	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91)	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.6	6.9	4.1	6.9	4.9	4.9
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 91)	-1.9	-1.4	7.8	-4.5	-2.2	2.6	-4.6	-7.8	0.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
 (a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 14 January 1992

			Period	Latest figure available	Percentage change (a) on		
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473	94,688	1.0	0.1
	— 1984–85 prices	"	"	62,900	63,396	–0.3	–1.9
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231	6,475	–0.4	–15.3
	— 1984–85 prices	"	"	4,817	5,012	0.5	–13.5
Expected new capital expenditure			Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Oct. 91	7,908.7	7,803.5	2.1	5.7
	— 1984–85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	14,915.3	15,486.9	2.9	0.2
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.		Nov. 91	41,815	42,074	5.2	–9.6
Dwelling unit approvals			Nov. 91	11,961	11,367	–4.5	4.2
Value of all building approvals	\$m		"	1,623	1,571	–16.1	–16.1
Value of total building work done			Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	–8.2	–17.2
	— current prices	"	"	3,828	3,701	–7.8	–16.8
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6	–0.3
	— 1984–85 prices	"	"	25,305	24,860	2.8	–0.8
Expected manufacturers' sales			Three months to Dec. 91	37,652	n.a.	n.a.	–5.0
Labour							
Employed persons (f)	'000		Nov. 91	7,674.1	7,650.1	–0.5	–2.3
Unemployment rate † (f)	%	"	"	9.6	10.5	0.5	2.4
Participation rate † (f)	"	"	"	62.6	63.0	–0.1	–0.9
Job vacancies	'000		Nov. 91	24.9	25.8	2.8	–27.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours		"	1.14	1.06	–9.7	–15.1
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980–81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	215.7	n.a.	0.6	3.3
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984–85 = 100.0		Oct. 91	118.7	n.a.	0.3	–11.5
Price index of materials produced by manufacturing industry	1988–89 = 100.0		Oct. 91	111.2	n.a.	0.1	–1.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m		Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	–17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$		Aug. 91	567.70	n.a.	1.2	4.9
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	–0.85	–4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	"	9.80	n.a.	–0.50	–3.55
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m		Nov. 91	4,563	4,557	6.4	4.3
Imports of merchandise	"		"	4,613	4,585	9.6	7.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	"	–50	–28	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	"	–173	–243	–219.7	–62.0
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	"	–1,556	–1,692	–23.2	–5.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984–85 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	–0.7	–4.6
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m		30 Sept. 91	133,480	n.a.	–1.6	3.5
Net foreign liabilities	"		"	182,282	n.a.	2.8	7.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per \$A		Nov. 91	0.7864	n.a.	–0.9	1.5
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	59.0	n.a.	–2.0	5.0
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000		Oct. 91	216	215	–4.3	14.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) November 1991 is not strictly comparable with November 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 16 January 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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